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TRUMP BLESSES TIKTOK'S DEAL WITH ORACLE AND WALMART

The US President has approved a deal under which TikTok will partner with Oracle and Walmart and form a US company

ORACLE TO STORE DATA OF AMERICAN USERS

Oracle and Walmart will acquire a cumulative 20% stake in the new company for an expected $12.5 billion. Oracle will store the data of TikTok's US users and will have the right to inspect the app's source code any time. The new company will donate $5 billion to a public fund, satisfying Donald Trump's demand that the federal government get a 'cut' from the deal

JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP'S WECHAT BAN

- A US federal judge on Saturday blocked Trump's ban on Chinese messaging app WeChat, hours before it was due to take effect
- The judge said the government's ban will affect WeChat users' First Amendment right to free speech, since an effective ban on the app removes their platform for communication

25,000

JOBS WILL BE CREATED BY THE NEW TIKTOK COMPANY, SAYS TRUMP

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Ruckus in House; Chair ignores division demand since all members were not in their seats; Oppn says govt did not have the numbers

Shocker as RS rams two farm bills by voice vote

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TWO of the three contentious farm bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote on Sunday amid pandemonium from the Opposition parties.

The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill will now go to the President for his assent before they are notified as laws.

The third bill, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, will be moved separately.

Dramatic scenes unfolded as Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh rushed through the clauses of the two bills with Opposition MPs standing in the well of the House sloganeering, tearing copies of the bills, damaging the microphone at the podium and some climbing on to tables.

Opposition MPs also sat in protest inside the House after it was adjourned for the day, alleging that the government violated many rules to get the bills passed because it did not have the numbers.

The Centre condemned the ruckus in Parliament. "The kind of attack launched on Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who is an erudite and reputed person, is highly condemnable," Union Minister Rajnath Singh said in a press conference. "There are attempts to emotionally misguide the farmers on the agriculture bills passed by Parliament," he added.

Terming it a 'watershed moment' in the history of Indian agriculture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the bills will ensure a complete transformation of the farm sector.

Meanwhile, several BJP MPs demanded action against the unruly opposition lawmakers, following which Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu held a meeting with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. Sources said the Centre is also mulling a resolution against the Opposition MPs.

The pandemonium started after the Deputy Chairman extended the duration of the House beyond 1 pm and the Opposition alleged there was no consensus for this. Following this, MPs from the TMC, Congress, DMK, AAP and others rushed to the well of the House.

TMC parliamentary party leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien flashed the rule book at the chair. While some reports said he tore it, O'Brien later denied having done so. Another member tried to pull the microphones from the podium, while marshals thwarted it.

Many other MPs, including DMK's Tiruchi Siva, were seen tearing copies of the bill, while Congress MP Rajiv Satav and AAP MP Sanjay Singh climbed a table in front of the chair and shouted slogans.

The noisy scenes led to adjournment of the House for 15 minutes. As the House reassembled, the Opposition resumed their protest. But the Deputy Chairman continued with the bills and they were passed by voice vote in 20 minutes. The main point raised by Opposition MPs was the lack of provision for ensuring minimum support price to farmers. **P7**

NO-TRUST MOTION AGAINST DY CHAIR

Complaining they were not allowed to seek voting on two farm bills, 12 Opposition parties moved a no-trust motion against Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien displays the rule book in front of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh on Sunday | PTI

QUESTION MARK OVER VOICE VOTE

The Congress, CPM and DMK moved resolutions to send the bills to a select committee and demanded division when their resolutions were taken up. However, the Deputy Chairman said division can only be taken up if the members go back to their seats. Voice vote was taken as Opposition members continued to remain in the well of the House

A WATERSHED MOMENT, SAYS MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the passage of the farm bills, calling it a 'watershed moment' in the history of Indian agriculture. He said the bills have the potential to revolutionise the farm sector. The PM asserted the bills will help double the income of farmers

Deve Gowda's maiden RS speech cut short to 9 mins

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

FORMER Prime Minister and JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda, who was making his maiden speech in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday on the issue of the farm Bills, was asked to wind up just three minutes into it.

He was repeatedly asked by Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh to conclude, even as many members from the NDA benches were heard interrupting the former PM to wrap up.

After several reminders, Deve Gowda (87) finally finished about nine minutes into his speech after which Harivansh Narayan Singh allowed the next speaker.

"What is the point in being upset," Gowda rued. Speaking to *TNIE*, he said, "The whole system looks like it is going to collapse. Our democratic system seems to have reached a dead end. What was the need to hurry with the Bill? We could have been allowed more time to discuss this very important issue. How can there be voting when the House was not in order?" he questioned.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Former PM H D Deve Gowda takes oath in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Govt collects ₹84k cr non-tax revenue

New Delhi: The Centre has so far collected non-tax revenue of ₹84,023.78 crore during the financial year, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said on Sunday.

India extends $250 mn support to Maldives

Male: India has provided financial aid of $250 million to the Maldives to help it mitigate the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian embassy said on Sunday. **P9**

IPL 13

CAPITALS VS KINGS XI

After Marcus Stoinis' knock, Kagiso Rabada's Super Over ensured an opening round victory for Delhi Capitals. **P11**

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

KARNTAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

8,191 TEST POSITIVE ON SUNDAY

5,19,537 TOTAL CASES

4,13,452 TOTAL DISCHARGES

98,043 TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

8,023 TOTAL DEATHS

P4

Critical BJD, AIADMK line put Centre in a tight position

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

DID the treasury benches have the numbers to get the farm sector reform bills passed in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday had the ayes and nays been actually counted through a process called division? The question is intriguing since a clutch of regional parties that generally vote with the NDA in the Upper House, like the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), the AIADMK and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), were critical in their assessment of the pieces of legislation. The BJD actually echoed the Opposition demand that the bills be referred to a select committee. While the TRS has seven members in the House, both the AIADMK and the BJD have nine each. Sizeable figures, given the fractured nature of the Rajya Sabha.

Also, three NDA votes would have gone to the Opposition, as the Shiromani Akali Dal is bitterly opposed to the bills. On the flip side, the YSR Congress, with six MPs, backed the bills.

For the record, the Centre claimed it had the numbers to get the legislations passed.

During the debate, Amar Patnaik (BJD) argued that the bills will lead to cartelisation. "Remunerative prices will not be the same. Who will fix it? Will it lead to market capture? Is the bill only for corporates? I would urge sending it to a select committee," he said.

S R Balasubramoniyam (AIADMK) alleged that the Centre has bulldozed farm reforms during Covid-19. "The Centre should ensure farmers don't get cheated. It can establish a central agriculture regulatory authority like the electricity regulatory authority to support farmers," he suggest.

Echoing them, K Keshava Rao (TRS) said the bills are a brutal assault on the Constitution and violate the spirit of federalism.

"If this is the new age (revolutionary), we are against it as you are putting poor farmers against rich corporates... Did you talk to us or did you consult the people? The bills will turn farmers to landless labourers," he charged. **P7**

> **This is like disinvestment in the Indian farming sector... If these bills are passed, states will not have any power to check profiteering, hoarding and black marketing** — S R Balasubramoniyam, AIADMK

Packed session as House meets today

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

THE eight-day session of the Karnataka legislature, which begins on Monday, is expected to be a stormy affair with big-ticket bills, limited time for discussion and a host of precautionary measures in view of Covid-19.

The seventh session of the 15th Assembly will commence at 11 am as per the Karnataka Conduct of Government Business in the State Legislature Act, 2005, under which it is mandatory for the legislature proceedings to be held for a minimum 60 days in four sessions in a year. The last time both Houses were convened was in March this year. Precautionary measures have been put in place, like mandatory Covid-19 screening and production of negative certificate, limited access to the halls, alternate seating and sanitisation.

While it is convention to adjourn the House on the first day after obituary references in the case of death of a sitting member, business has been listed for both the Assembly and Council on Monday. Being just an eight-day session, both Houses will see the introduction of at least 10 new Bills, 19 Bills to replace ordinances and two pending from the previous session. **P3**

Vidhana Soudha being readied for the session beginning on Monday | EXPRESS

DIP IN GROWTH, REVENUE DEFICIT STATE'S BUGBEARS

The contraction in the economy has severely impacted most sectors, including those that are considered key engines of economic growth. The situation looks dire as recovery may take a long time even as the pandemic rages on. To put the economy back on track, the government is taking a number of measures. In this series, *The New Indian Express* will take a look at the impact of Covid-induced slowdown on various sectors; government and private, organised and unorganised

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

With reduced funds from devolution, uncertainty over Central grants and GST compensation and increased borrowing that may still not be able to offset the revenue loss, Karnataka may for the first time see a revenue deficit this fiscal year. As the country's GDP has contracted by a massive 23.9 per cent in the first quarter (the period worst hit by the Covid lockdown) for the fiscal 2020-21, Karnataka is unlikely to be an exception.

Unlike the Union government, Karnataka does not assess growth on a quarterly basis, but is hopeful of faring better than most other states, given its diversified economy. While sectors like IT & BT and agriculture are expected to achieve or exceed the growth rates estimated in this year's budget, others like manufacturing, real estate and transport are likely to see a slowdown. Within the manufacturing sector, defence is faring well, while aerospace is seeing a setback, according to the Industries and Commerce Department.

"We have suffered losses of thousands of crores during the lockdown. But we hope that we will maintain the predicted growth rate (10 per cent) in our new industrial policy," said Jagadish Shettar, Minister for Large and Medium-Scale Industries, acknowledging the impact of the lockdown on industries. He added that the workforce is yet to be restored to its full capacity since production had halted and is now recovering slowly. In 2019-20, the growth rate for industries in Karnataka stood at 4.8 per cent and the services sector at 7.9 per cent.

The state is positive on agriculture as good monsoons have led to increased sowing. With the floods in August damaging far less agricultural lands in comparison to last year, the government is pinning its hopes on a bumper harvest this year. "The total targeted area under Kharif sowing was 74 lakh hectares, but we have achieved more than that and we expect another 1.5 lakh hectares covered. We have rarely crossed 67 lakh hectares in the past. The quantity of fertilisers consumed is also an indicator of not just sowing but also of the health of agriculture. We have consumed 30 per cent more fertilisers than last year and that is an indication of a bumper crop. We can expect 30-35 per cent more yield than targeted," said Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Director, Agriculture Department.

But experts suggest that agriculture independently doing well as a sector may not salvage the economy. "With migrant labourers returning to rural areas, there are more hands available for agriculture. Moreover, the returns in the sector are dependant on prices for the produce. But the scenario is not good for real estate that has lost labour due to the lockdown. At a time when the Country is facing a contraction, Karnataka is unlikely to be an exception, simply because its IT sector and agriculture will fare well and revenues targets from excise will meet the targets," said Prof Narendar Pani, Economist, Professor and Dean, National Institute of Advanced Studies.

While the state is yet to make an estimated projection of its growth and the impact of Covid on its finances, revenue generation has hit a roadblock. CONTINUED ON: P5

COVIDONOMICS PART-1

Rain fury returns, 1 dies in Dakshina Kannada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER a short breather, heavy rainfall has returned to parts of Karnataka, causing large-scale damage to life and property. Even as the state is still reeling from the aftermath of the floods in August and in 2019, rain battered Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Belagavi districts.

The state had estimated the damage due to the August floods at over ₹8,000 crore while the loss was put at more than Rs 35,000 crore last year. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, during his New Delhi visit last week, had sought additional funds under National Disaster Relief Funds citing consecutive floods in the state.

On Sunday, one person was killed and four others were injured due to heavy rains, landslide and flooding in Dakshina Kannada while 25 houses were damaged. Kodagu district is on orange alert till Monday following continuous downpour over the past four days.

Bhagamandala and Talacauvery received 6.88 inches (175 mm) rainfall in 24 hours till Sunday morning and Ayengeri Road was submerged. The water level in Cauvery is witnessing a gradual increase. Severe damage was also reported at coffee estates in Kodagu.

In Udupi district, 2,000 people from 700 families were rescued from floods caused by torrential rains. The situation forced the Udupi district administration to summon the NDRF from Mangaluru. Connectivity was cut off after the Neermarga-Katinja road on the outskirts of Mangaluru caved in.

A landslip on the bypass railway line between Konkan Railway network and South Western Railway network near Padil in Mangaluru affected movement between Konkan Railway and Hassan/ Mysuru/ Bengaluru. With heavy rains in the catchment, 65,000 cusecs of water was released from both Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagar reservoirs on Sunday. People have been advised to move away from low-lying areas as the discharge is likely to be increased.

Soya crop cultivated in many villages of Belagavi district was destroyed by heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday. As rainwater stagnated in the fields, farmers struggled to save their produce. SEE: P5

People stuck on rooftops wait to be rescued in Udupi district on Sunday, after their houses were inundated due to torrential rain | EXPRESS